

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06783 01 OF 04 081742Z

43

ACTION NODS-00

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P 081515Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9562

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 AMMAN 6783

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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

SUBJECT: PINT PFOR JO XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH ZAID RIFAI-JORDANS FUTURE

SUMMARY: WHEN I SAW RIFAI NOVEMBER 4 FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO LEBANON AND SYRIA, I RAISED WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF JORDANS FUTURE. WHILE MY QUESTION WAS CAST IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE PASSED JORDAN BY IT WAS BROAD ENOUGH ALSO TO COMPREHEND CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ISSUES, AND INTERNAL POLITICAL CHANGES. RIFAIS ANSWERES WERE INTERESTING.SINCE HE STILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS I BELIEVE THAR ARE WORTH PUTTING FORTH AT SOME LENGTH. RIFAI APPEARS GENEUINELY COMMITTED TO SOME FOR OF FEDERATHION WITH SYRIA--WHILE STILL PRESERVING A A BROAD MEASURE OF JORDANIAN LOCAL AUTONOMY-AS THE PROPER EVOLUTION FOR JORDAN FOR THE FUTURE IN THE ARAB WORLD. WHILE RIFAI CLAIMS HE IS NOT RESTLESS TO REENTER POLIICAL LIFE, HIS CONSUMING INTEREST IN AND BACKGROUND MANIPULATION OF LOCAL POLITICAL AND FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS BELIES THERE PROTESTATIONS. THE EX PRIME MINISTER SEEMS DETERMINED TO REMOVE ROYAL FAMILY "MEDDLING" AS HE DESCRIBES IT FROM LOCAL POLIICAL LIFE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COURSE OF KING HUSSEIN ALTHOUGH HE EVEN IMPLIES SOME RESERVATIONS IN THAT AREA. RIFAI TALKS INTERESTEDLY ABOUT INCREASING PARLIAMENTARY LIFE IN JORDAN AND ABOUT FORMING A NONE PARTY LOYALIST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT THE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 06783 01 OF 04 081742Z

HASHEMITE REGIME. HE BLIEVES THAT FUTURE PRIME

MINISTER SHOULD BE FREE TO RULE WITHOUT SO MUCH
ROYAL INTERFERENCE. HE SPEAKS IN WAYS THAT CONTINUE TO IMPLY HIS
OWN AMBITIONS.
ARE BROAD AND UNCIRCUMSCRIBED. END SUMMARY

1. RESPOND TO THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF JORDAN'S
ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD RIFAI SAID THAT THE ONLY HOPE HE
SEES FOR THE FUTURE IS A FEDERATION WITH SYRIA. HE
EXPLAINED THAT HE IS SURE THERE WILL NOT BE ANY REAL
PROGRESS TOWARD A GENUINE ARAB ISRAELI PEACE AGREEMENT: THE LEAST
THAT CAN
BE DONE IS TO ESTABLISH SOME COHESION IN THE
EASTERN ARAB WORLD. RIFAI WENT ON TO SAY IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTIONS THAT WHAT HE MEANT WAS A SOLIDLY-BASED
AND GENUINE FEDERATION. BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO
GIVE UP EQUALLY TO CHIEVE A NEW ENTITY WITHOUT AT THE
SAME TIME BRINGING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EITHER
JORDAN OR SYRIA.

2. WHEN I ASKED WHAT AREAS COULD OR SHOULD BE GIVEN
TO THE NEW FEDERATION HE SAID FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENSE
CUSTOMS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND SIMILAR QUESTIONS. WHEN
I ASKED ABOUT INTERNAL SECURITY HE WAS INSISTENT IT STAY
A JORDANIANS RESPONSIBILITY. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE
JORDANIANS. THE FRONTIER WOULD BE A LOOSE ONE.
JORDANIANS AND SYRIAN MILITARY UNITS WOULD EVENTUALLY
BE STATIONS IN EACH OTHERS TERRITORY.

3. I RECALLED FOR RIFAI HOW MUCH THE PRESENT RELATION
SHIP WAS BUILT ON THE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
ASAD AND HUSSEIN AND HOW FRAGILE THAT WAS. RIFAI SAID
THAT THE FRIENDSHIP HAD TO BE DEVELOPED AND INSTITUTIONALIZED.
THAT WAS THE PROBLEM WITH THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT
IF ASAD EVER GOT INTO TROUBLE UNDER A FEDERATION
JORDAN WOULD BE AROUND TO HELP OUT. COUPS IN SYRIA
WERE MADE WITH A FEW HUNDRED MEN OR A BATTALION OR
MAYBE A BRIGADE. A STRONG FORCE TO SUPPORT ASAD IN
A TIME OF CRISIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE
FUTURE FEDERATION. RIFAI CONTINUED BY NOTING THAT
JORDAN HAD PROBABLY GOTTEN A GREAT DEAL MORE OUT OF
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SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 06783 01 OF 04 081742Z

THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA THAN IT HAD GIVEN.
HE IMPLIED THAT HE BELIEVE SYRIA HAD AND WOULD CON
TINUE TO TREAT JORDAN FAIRLY AND EVEN CONTINUE TO BEND
OVER BACKWARDS TO SUPPORT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN.

4. RIFAI SAID THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT CIRCUMSTANCES
KEPT JORDAN FROM MOVING TO A FEDERATION WITH SYRIA.
THE PRESENT HONEYMOON IN THE ARAB WORLD WOULD MUTE

CRITICISM FROM PEOPLE IN PLACES LIKE SAUDI ARABIA WHO
WOULD NOT REACT WLL TO SUCH A STEP. IN THE LONG RUN
HOWEVER THE SAUDIS SHOULD REALIZE HE HYPOTHEZIZED THAT SUCH A MOVE
WOLD BE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST AS WELL BECAUSE IT
ITE SYRIA INTO A MORE OPEN FRAMEWORK, LESS IDEOLOGICALLY
OR POLIICALLY RIGID. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIE A HELPFUL
COUNTERWEIGHT AGAINST THE IRAQIS WHO CONTINUED TO WORRY
THE SAUDIS.(COMMENT- RIFAI KNOWS BETTER. HE HAD A

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06783 02 OF 04 081757Z

43

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 081515Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9563X

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 AMMAN 6783

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VERBAL SLANGING MATCH WITH KING KHALID ON THIS POINT
SIX MONTHS AGO. THE SAUDIS HAVE GIVEN HIM NO SIGH
THEY HAVE GROWN OR COULD GROW TO LIKE THE SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP,
INDEED THEIR UNCONCELADED JOY AT RIFAIS POLITICAL DEMISE COULD
ONLY LEAD HIM TO CONCLUDE HIS LOGIC HERE IS ALL WRONG.)

5. AT THIS POINT RIFAI DISGRESED A BIT. HE SAID IRAQ
WAS IN HIS JUDGEMENT NOW RULED BY A "GANG" OF 30 OR SO
LEADERS AIDED BY A PRIVATE "PARTY" ARMY OF 100,000
LOCATED AROUND BAGHDAD. THE REGULAR MILITARY WERE
KEPTOUT OF TOWN BY HIS PARTY ARMY BECAUSE THEY POSE
A DANGER TO THE RULING GROUP. CURRENTLY THERE WERE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BAKR AND SADDAM HUSSEIN TIKRITI.
BAKR IS ILL OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND PROBABLY DYING.
SADDAM HUSSEIN IS TRYIHG TO ASSUME THE SUCCESSION.

6. TURNING TO THE SOVIETS, RIFAI CONTINUED THAT BOTH
IRAQ AND EGYPT MADE HIM NERVOUS. IRAQ WOULD BE
SUSCEPTIBLE TO SOVIET INFLUENCE,EGYPT IF THE US
ELECTION SLOWED DOWN PEACE PROGRESS, WOULD BE ALSO. SADAT

WAS READY TO ABANDON THE US BECAUSE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER GONE, HE COULD EASILY CUT LOOSE FROM ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH ANOTHER GROUP NOW OUT OF POWER. SIMILARLY SADAT WAS ALREADY AFRAID THAT US ELECTION CHANGES WOULD LEAVE HIM HIGH AND DRY IN MATTERS OF RECOVERING TERRITORY FROM THE ISRAELIS AND OF GAINING US ECONOMIC SUPPORT. THE FAHMI GROMYKO SOFIA MEETINGS WERE SECRET

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 06783 02 OF 04 081757Z

A FORM OF HEDGING HIS BET BY MOVING BACK TOWARD THE SOVIETS. RIFAI SAID THAT THE DILEMMA OF IT ALL IS THAT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS THE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN THE ARABS MORE MATERIAL AID THAN THE US, AND US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL HAS GIVEN THE ARABS MORE GRIEF. HOWEVER THE ARABS (IN HIS JUDGEMENT) DO NOT AND PROBABLY WILL NEVER TRUST AND LIKE THE SOVIETS AND THE US COULD WIN A FREE ELECTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST ANY DAY OF THE WEEK AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

7. TURNING BACK TO HIS IDEAS ON FEDERATION I ASKED RIFAI WHETHER LINKING UP WITH SYRIA WOULD NOT INTRODUCE POLITICAL PARTIES AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES TO JORDAN WHICH WERE ABSENT NOW. RIFAI SAID THAT UNDOUBTEDLY IT WOULD. HE WAS HIMSELF CONCERNED THAT THE ONLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL PARTIES NOW IN JORDAN WERE OPPOSITION PARTIES --BAATH COMMUNIST PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND SO ON. THESE PARTIES REPRESENTEDLY ONLY MINORITIES. THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WERE LOYAL TO THE KING (NOT TO THE MONARCHY HE SAID BUT ONLY PERSONALLY TO HUSSEIN) AND WANTED AND WOULD SUPPORT A PARTY WHICH FAVORED THE KING BUT WHICH ALSO WOULD GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE IN A MORE DEMOCRATIC WAY.

8. WARMING TO THE SUBJECT HE POINTED OUT THAT JORDAN HAD NO PARLIAMENT AND NO REAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HE (RIFAI) WAS PERSONALLY AGAINST A MULTI PARTY SYSTEM FOR JORDAN--"IF WE DID THAT WE WOULD HAVE 2 MILLION PARTIES" JORDAN WOULD HAVE AND NEEDED ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY. THE INSTITUTION OF SOME REPRESENTATIVE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT COULD FOLLOW. THE QUESTION OF PARLIAMENT AND THE ELECTIONS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE FACED. BUT THE RABAT SUMMIT DECISIONS MADE THAT HARD. TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST THE KING HAD DEPENDED ON BRINKSMANSHIP FOR SURVIVAL. WHEN THE SITUATION GOT BAD HE BROUGHT IN THE ARMY CRACKED HEADS AND CREATED SOME BREATHING SPACE. THIS COULD NOT CONTINUE. SECONDLY THE PRESENT LACK OF SYSTEM WOULD NOT WORK FOREVER. THERE HAD TO BE MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED

PROCESSES, INCLUDING SOME WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 06783 02 OF 04 081757Z

BROADER PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT.

9. IN DISCUSSION THE IDEA OF CREATING A POLITICAL
PARTY I ASKED RIFAI WHAT HE WAS DOING ABOUT IT. HE
SAID THAT MANY HAD COME TO HIM WHILE HE WAS PRIME
MINISTER AND ASKED HIM TO START A PARTY. OTHER
EVEN MORE HAD COME TO HIM WITH THE SAME REQUEST SINCE
HIS RETIREMENT. HE HAD TOLD THEM ALL IT WAS NOT YET
TIME. HE HAD DONE THIS BECAUSE THE KING WAS AGAINST
ESTABLISHING SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. THE KING WAS
WRONG RIFAI IMPLIED BUT DID NOT SAY OPENLY. THE
PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO START SUCH A PARTY COULD DO SO
WITHOUT THE KING'S PERMISSION IF THEY WANTED TO. AFTER
ALL THEY WERE ALL LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF HIS AND COULD
NOT ALL BE PUNISHED IF THEY DID SO. RIFAI CLAIMED
THAT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE STANDING BETWEEN THE KING
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW PARTY AND WAS
DOING SO OUT OF LOYALTY TO THE KING. RIFAI SAID HE
IS GIVING THIS QUESTION A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AND
THAT A PARTY EVENTUALLY MUST BE ORGANIZED IN JORDAN.
PERHAPS THE PARTY COULD HELP TO PROVIDE A MORE

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06783 03 OF 04 081909Z

53

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 081515Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9564

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 4 AMMAN 6783

NODIS

REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION AND AT THE SAME TIME
COULD HELP TO COVERCOME THE POST RABA ELECTION PROBLEM. IE
WHETHER AND HOW "PALESTINIANS IN THE EAST BANK SHOULD OR
COULD PARTICIPATE IN JORDANIANS ELECTIONS".

10. RIFAI THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS FOR ME HIS THOUGHTS
ON THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND OTHER RESPECTS OF JORDANS
POLITICAL FUTURE. WHEN I ASKED HIM IF THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT IS STABLE HE ANSWERED BY SAYING "NO IT IS
STAGNANT" "THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOTHING MORE THAN
A VILLAGE MUKHTAR COMPROMISING OUT DIFFERENCES". THERE
MUST BE NEW LEADERSHIP. NONE OF THE OLD MEN ARE WORTH
TYRING. ALL OF THE YOUNG ONES "ARE EXPERIMENTS" LIKE
THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER. "I ASKED RIFAI ABOUT
COMING BACK HIMSELF AND ABOUT WHAT KIND OF TIMING HE
HAD IN MIND. HE SAID " I WILL NOT COME BACK UNTIL
ALL OF MY DEMANDS ARE MET". THEN HE ADDED SOTTO VOCE
"WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE NEVER". HE AVOIDED ANSWERING
DIRECTLY MY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS "DEMANDS" BY SAYING
THERE ARE "TOO MANY OF THEM TO DESCRIBE TO YOU". THEN LATER
AS IF TO ANSWER HE SAID "WE NEED WHAT I HAVE BEEN
TELLING YOU ABOUT, INSTITUTIONS ONE REPRESENTATION
ARRANGEMENTS A POLITICAL PARTY AND A SYSTEM WHICH
WILL ALLOW THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS OWN TO DO MORE TO RUN
THE COUNTRY".

11. PICKING UP THE LAST POINT HE SAID BESIDES
MEDIOCRACY IN GOVERNMENT WE HAVE THE INTERFERENCE
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 06783 03 OF 04 081909Z

OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. "SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE
ABOUT PRIME MOHAMMED, ABOUT SHARIF NASR (KING'S UNCLE)
AND ABOUT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN. "NONE OF THESE PEOPLE HAS ANY
FOLLOWING, THE KING IS THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM THERE IS
ANY LOYALTY". ALL OF THEM INTERFERE IN THE GOVERNMENT
AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR A PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET TO
FUNCTION". RIFAI ALSO LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION
THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME LIMITS ON THE KING'S OWN
INTERFERENCE IN SOME OF THE MORE DAY TO DAY AFFAIRS
OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL OF THESE CONCERNS I ASSUME
WERE INCLUDED IN HIS CATALOGUE OF "DEMANDS".

12. I ASKED RIFAI HOW LONG THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT
WOULD LAST. HE SAID PROBABLY FOR AT LEAST A FEW
MONTHS. CERTAINLY THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF A
BUDGET (AMMAN 6718) THE PROBLEM IS
THAT THERE IS NOT ONE ON THE HORIZON TO REPLACE THEM.

13. COMMENT: RIFAI HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN GIVING
JORDAN'S PRESENT EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL POLITICAL

POSITION MUCH THOUGHT. EXTERNALLY THE IDEA OF A
FEDERATION WITH SRIA IS NOT A NEW ONE FOR HIM. HE
HAS BEEN PUSHING IT ALL ALONG. WHILE IT SOMEHOW DOES
NOT RING VERY TRUE FROM HERE, IT HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT
POSITION OF RIFAI THAT CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SRIA
ARE AN ANSWER. TO JORDAN'S FADING OUT OF ARAB POLITICS IN
RECENT MONTHS. HIS IDEAS ARE CAST MORE IN HISTORICAL
THAN PRACTICAL TERMS. HE HAS ANSWER NONE OF THE
VERY SATISFACTORY FOR THE DILEMMA--GIVEN JORDAN'S
SMALLER POPULATION OF HOW DOES JORDAN KEEP FROM BEING
SAWLED UP BY SYRIA? WHAT IS KING'S LIFE EXPECTANCY IN SUCH
A SITUATION CAN THE JORDAN TAIL CONTINUE TO WAG THE
SYRIAN DOG? ONE ALMOST HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT RIFAI
MIGHT WELL BE SEEING HIMSELF AS A LEADER OF A GREATER
SRIA AND NOT BE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THE KING'S FUTURE
IT IS WORTH NOTING ALSO THAT IDEAS OF A SYRIAN
FEDERATION HAVE NOT ASSUMED MUCH POPULARITY IN JORDAN.
THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ENTHUSIASM FOR A CLOSER AND MORE
ENDURING RELATIONSHIP WITH SRIA HAS WANED WITH THE KING. FURTHER
EAST BANK LOYALTY MILITARY OFFICERS HAD DISTUSTED
SYRIA AS A MATTER ALMOST OF TRADITION, ESPECIALLY
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 06783 03 OF 04 081909Z

SINCE THE 1970 SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN AN ATTACK ON
JORDAN.

14. INTERESTINGLY JORDANIANS AT ALL LEVELS WHO HAVE HAD PERSONAL
CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD INCLUDING A FEW SKEPTICS
LIKE CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND MINISTERS ADNAN ABU ODEH HAVE
COME AWAY FROM SUCH CONTACTS SEEMINGLY MORE TRUSTING
ASAD SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED VERY WELL WITH JORDANIANS
NONE OF HIS ENTOURAGE HAS COME CLOSE TO HIM IN THIS
RESPECT. MANY OF MY QUESTIONS TO RIFAI WERE MOTIVATED
BY AN INTEREST IN DETERMINING WHETHER JORDANIANS HAD
DEVELOPED ANY MORE DISTRUST OF ASAD AS A RESULT OF
JORDAN'S NON-PARTICIPATION IN RIYADH. NO APPARENT
FEELING OF THIS SORT SEEMS TO HAVE COME THROUGH.
SIMILARLY QUESTIONS WERE DIRECTED TO DETERMINING
WHETHER JORDAN FELT LEFT BEHIND BY SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN
RAPPROACHMENT. HERE TOO SUCH FEELINGS HAVE
COME THROUGH OR ALTERNATIVELY JORDANIANS ARE BEING
SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL IN MANAGING SUCH INFORMATION.
ONE DOES NOT KNOW FROM RIFAI A VERY REAL CONCERN
ABOUT THE US HAVING BEEN OVERSOLD ON EGYPT'S
LEADERSHIP CAPACITY IN THE ARAB WORLD. THERE IS

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SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06783 04 OF 04 090132Z

62

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 081515Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9565

S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 AMMAN 6783

NODIS

NOTHING NEW IN THIS FROM RIFAI. THE IDEA THAT SADAT IN TURNING BACK TO THE SOVIETS IN OBVIOUSLY SEEN BY HIM AS ONE "PROOF OF SADATS INCONSTANCY AND THE FACT THAT THE US MAY WELLHAVE BITEN OFF A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN IT COULD DIGEST WHEN IT ACQUIESCED IN DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS PRESIDENT NIXONS 1974 TRIP WHICH ACCORDING TO RIFAI LED EGYPTIANS POPULACE AND PERHAPS SOME LEADERS TO BELIEVE THAT US-SPONSREED ECONOMIC BAILOUT OF EGYPT WAS CLOSE AROUND THE CORNER.

15. IN TERMS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, RIFAI'S FUTURE THOUGHTS SEEM ALSO TO BE ORIENTED TOWARD LOOSENING THE GRIP IN STRICT MONARCHIAL CONTROL. CERTAINLY A POLITICAL PARTY (UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP) PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS A WEAKENED ROYAL FAMILY SOME CIRCUMSCRIPTION OF THE KINGS PRESENTLY WIDERANGING POWERES COULD ALL WELL SERVE HIS OWN NORROW PERSONAL INTEREST IN EVENTUALLY RUNNING JORDAN. IT IS TRUE ALSO THA SUCH STEPS COME CLOSER TO IDEAS POPULAR IN THE WEST ABOUT THE PROPER DIRECTION FOR THE EVOLUTION OF ABSOUTE STATUES. SUCH IDEAS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE WIDE POPULARLITY IN JORDAN EVEN IF THEY WERE PARTICALLY BLEMISHED FOR THEIR HAVING BEEN ESPOUSED BY RIFAI. RIFAI IS NOT A WIDELY POPULAR LEADER IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORLD. BUT HIS CLOSENESS TO THE KING HIS LIVELY MIND AND HIS ENERGY HAVE ALL KEPHIM IN THEFOREFRONT OF THE LOCAL POWER ELITE. WHILE STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY WITH ANY FINALITY THE INTERESTING POINTS ABOUT RIFAIS IDEA ARE THAT
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SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 06783 04 OF 04 090132Z

THEY PIT HIM AGAINST THE KING ON A NUMBER OF POINTS
AND DO A GREAT DEAL TO PROVIDE A POSSIBLE PLATFORM FOR RIFAI'S
OWN FUTURE. RIFAI HAS RARELY BUCKED THE KING IN THE
PAST HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CLEVER IN GETTING THE KING
TO MOVE ALONG HIS OWN PAST (RIFAI'S) OFTEN WITH THE KING BE-
LIEVING IT WAS HIS OWN IDEA. WITH THE PRESENT LACUNAE
IN GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN, WE INTEND TO KEEP A CLOSE
ON RIFAI AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KING. HOWEVER AT
PRESENT THAT RELATIONSHIP GIVES EVERY SURFACE SIGN
OF ROBUST GOOD HEALTH.
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